

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 03117 221443Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SSC-01
/065 W

-----221450 130121 /43

R 221322Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1974
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 3117

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR PINR EG FR
SUBJECT: MUHAMMAD HAFIZ ISMAIL: NEW EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO PARIS

1. PRESS ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 22 THAT MUHAMMED HAFIZ ISMAIL HAS BEEN APPOINTED EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE. ANNOUNCEMENT COMES AS SURPRISE BECAUSE ISMAIL HAS, SINCE NOV. 76, BEEN SLATED TO BECOME AEP IN NEW DELHI. HE WAS AMBASSADOR PARIS ONCE BEFORE, FROM 1968-70.

2. LAST INR BIO REPORT (BE. 1974) ACCURATELY DESCRIBED ISMAIL POSITION AS SADAT'S CHIEF FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR, "EGYPT'S KISSINGER". AT THAT TIME ISMAIL HEADED HIS OWN 15-MEMBER NSC STAFF WITHIN THE PRESIDENCY AND HAD PERHAPS MORE INFLUENCE THAN FONMIN FAHMY WITH SADAT. BUT PRESIDENT'S DECISION DURING JANUARY 1974 SINAI I NEGOTIATIONS TO PURSUE JOINT GOE-USG APPROACH TO PEACE PROCESS WAS DECISION WHICH ISMAIL OPPOSED AT ASWAN. OVERRULED BY SADAT, ISMAIL, TOO LOYAL TO MAKE WAVES INFORMED THE PRESIDENT THAT HIS ALLEGED EGGS IN ONE BASKET APPROACH WOULD NOT BEAR FRUIT, AND THAT HE (ISMAIL) CONSEQUENTLY PREFERRED TO REMOVE HIMSELF FROM THE FOREIGN POLICY DECISION MAKING PROCESS FOR THE TIME BEING. HE DISBANDED HIS NSC AND REQUESTED THE EMBASSY IN LONDON. LONDON WAS TURNED DOWN AND HE WAS GIVEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 03117 221443Z

MOSCOW INSTEAD, ARRIVING THERE IN APRIL 1974. HE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD FRIENDS THAT, GIVEN RELATIVE UNIMPORTANCE OF MOSCOW IN SUBSEQUENT DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, AND GIVEN UNPLEASANTNESS OF LIFE IN SOVIET CAPITAL, HE WAS NOT HAPPY. IN MARCH 76, AT HIS REQUEST, HE RETURNED TO CARIO WHERE HE AWAITED AN APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENT. IN NOVEMBER IT WAS ANNOUNCED HE WOULD GO TO NEW DELHI.

3. SUDDEN SWITCH FROM DELHI TO PARIS, COMING AS IT DOES WHILE FRENCH FONMIN CONDUCTING OFFICIAL TALKS WITH GOE, IS FRANKLY PUZZLING. FRENCH EMBOFF TELLS US ISMAIL WAS NOT REMARKABLE SUCCESSFUL AS AMBASSADOR IN PARIS SOME YEARS AGO AND HE APPARENTLY DOES NOT SPEAK FRENCH. WHETHER ISMAIL VISS HAVE SHIFTED TOWARD SUPPORTING SADAT'S FOREIGN POLICY OR NOT, SADAT CAN BE SURE THAT ISMAIL WILL SERVE HIM LOYALLY. ISMAIL HAS BEEN PEDDLING LINE THAT USSR IS CLEARLY ACHIEVING MILITARY PARITY WITH US AND THAT NATO BONDS HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY WEAKENED IN RECENT YEARS. HENCE, GOE SHOULD AVOID ANY EXCLUSIVE DEPENDENCE ON USG AND MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH USSR. HE IS ALSO CONVINCED THAT USG IS TOTALLY TIED TO ISRAELI INTERESTS AND IS SKEPTICAL OF OUR WILLINGNESS OR ABILITY ACTIVELY PUSH ME PEACE PROCESS.

4. PRESENT EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE HAS SEVERAL FACTORS GOING FOR HIM: HE IS CLOSE FRIEND OF SADAT'S FAMILY; HE IS CLOSE FRIEND AND HIGHLY RESPECTED CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE COLLEAGUE OF FAHMY'S (UNLIKE ISMAIL, WHO WAS FAHMY'S CHIEF RIVAL AND IS NOT CAREER DIPLOMAT); HE SPEAKS FLUENT FRENCH AND HAS LOCAL REPUTATION OF BEING A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE DIPLOMAT IN PARIS. FURTHERMORE, AS HE HAS TOLD US NUMEROUS TIMES, HE ENJOYS HIS POST AND BELIEVES HE IS DOING GOOD JOB.

THEREFORE, IT IS PARTICULARLY INTERESTING THAT OUT OF THE BLUE, FAHMY'S OLD RIVAL HAS BEEN SELECTED TO REPLACE FAHMY'S OLD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE.

EILTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 03117 221443Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO03117
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770061-0348
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770222/aaaaatom.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9244f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3268375
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MUHAMMAD HAFIZ ISMA'IL: NEW EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO PARIS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, EG, FR, (ISMAIL, MUHAMMAD HAFIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9244f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009